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ABSTRACT

Eight culture capsules describing various aspects of French housing are presented. Each capsule includes a French-American contrast and gives ideas for classroom presentation and student activities. The capsules deal with: le logement, les immeubles, les êxterieurs, la minuterie, les portes, la salle de bain, le refrigerateur, and culture grains (la chambre a coucher, la serrure, le salon, la cuisine and availability of housing). A bibliography and a page of ideas for culminating and supplementary activities are also included. (Author/RM)

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# LES HABITATS

Culture Capsules in English

for use in

Beginning French Classes

U S DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
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Main objective of this unit:

To provide the student with way-of-life culture concerning "les habitats" by means of culture capsules and follow-up activities; the overall method of evaluation should be relevant to each student and to his individual level of achievement.

General information:

This unit on "Les Habitats" was written for use with Chapters 12 and 18 of Jeunes voix, jeunes visages. It is assumed that the students have studied a basic French vocabulary of dwellings, rooms, and furniture. Words underlined in the capsules are new to the students at this level.

The capsules may be used sporadically during the study of the house or they could be used as a self-contained unit.

The Presentation and Activities section and Culminating Activities are intended as suggestions for individualizing, meeting various ability levels, or variety in presentation.

The capsules are written in English because at the beginning level, way-of-life culture is most effectively presented and understood in the native language of the student.

Instructions to the student:

Each culture capsule or lesson illustrates a cultural difference between American and French housing. Keep all of your material and notes together in some sort of a notebook or folder. Keep it in chronological order, following the standard heading form on all sheets. After we have studied some of the cultural differences, we will have a "culminating activity". It is for this activity that you need to keep all of your materials. More specific instructions are given for each lesson.

L'HABITAT

En France, locating is a much different in appearance as it is in the United States. People live in dwellings that are determined by their geographical location and by their income.

Objectives: To introduce the student to the existence of certain fallacious generalizations that we assume to be correct because of our own cultural way of life.

To introduce a general and basic informational look at French dwellings.

France

Geography, climate, and income determine the type of house in which a French person lives. Houses on the Mediterranean in the south of France look different from homes of Brittany in the northern part of France, or chalets in the Alps, or chateaux on the Loire River. Apartments in the cities are built close together; houses are usually not new or luxurious. Building houses and apartments is costly, the World Wars slowed down construction progress, and the amount of rent or purchasing is too expensive, at present, to upgrade the existing level of dwellings for the majority of the French people.

The

When you look at houses in different locations of the US, you see houses that represent people who live in the country, city, or suburbs; north, south, east, or west; mountains, hills, plains, or oceans; wealthy, average, or poor. Usually you can assume that a house is significant of an Indian, an Igloo of an Eskimo, very close-built shabby apartments of the lower income, a well-landscaped roomy house of the middle or upper class, and the house with a barn and animals of a country farm. But it would be impossible to be accurate and say "this is a typical American house. Most Americans live in a house like that."

Generally there are three types of housing for the French: (1) le chambre, (2) le maison, and (3) l'appartement. Le chambre is the attic on the top floor of an apartment or house. It is small, usually for one person, and usually for a student. There are no extra facilities and the furniture is the bare minimum.

In Belize he usually eat stories, sometimes accompanying an old man harmonica, with a lowered voice.

Los departamentos are usually no higher than six to eight stories high. Many times there are small shops on the ground [illegible]. There is usually one locked main entrance. The majority of Spanish people live in los apartamentos.

Other types of "lugares" include:

an aunair, an antique, one ville, an ATMosphere, one tiene, an Italian.

Pronunciation and Accentuation

Discussion:
-students' ideas of a "typical" French lesson based on their knowledge from television, movies, etc.; this could be in addition to previously discussed --comments of other myths to various and stereotypes or cultures could be discussed at this time.
-students' thoughts about what French pronunciation would consider a typical American house, i.e., exterior, condition and the "city" was house, etc.

Provide starting a variety of French and American houses, typical of several regions of both countries; use slides or overhead; have cues and responses for the presentation; perhaps a worksheet or checklist could help in emphasis of houses or buildings in that necessary that students be the United States.

Questions:
-Do our standards of living cause them to be in right for example?
-How would a house in Switzerland be different from a house in Florida or Alaska or Texas?
-Do we tend to judge others or below might it be ideal to "progress" to our own standards?
-How could a war or disaster, such as tornadoes, floods, earthquakes, etc. affect us?

Provide of latest developments of coronavirus as in France, taken from up-to-date magazines or newspapers.

[illegible]

[illegible]

Objectives: To [illegible]

To [illegible]

| Process | Why |
|---|---|
| [illegible] | [illegible] |

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Materials:

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

the building or in the center garden. In houses older than 25 years, the w.c. is found in a small cabinet on the hall landing. With the construction of new apartment buildings, conditions are changing: however, the residents complain that the bathrooms in the new modern buildings are too narrow and that they are shoddily constructed. An important note for the tourist--the faucets are marked C and F for chaud and froid.

Presentation and Activities

-Show a picture of a French bathroom. Ask questions such as what room is this, is it large or small, what color is the room, do you think this is a French or an American bathroom, why? Tell students the facts about the salle de bain while they see several different examples on the overhead.
On a sheet of paper answer the following questions:

1. How are the faucets marked? What do the letters stand for?
2. How is a French shower different from an American shower?
3. Do you bathe in the salle de bain or in the cabinet?

Vrai ou Faux

4. The French prefer linen shower curtains.
5. The toilet or w.c. is usually in a separate room from the bath.
6. All French homes have toilets.
7. There are lots of books and magazines in French bathrooms.
8. The faucets are marked C and F.

-Salles de Bain et Salles d'Eau by de Looze is an excellent source of bathroom pictures.

# LE REFRIGERATEUR

A refrigerator in France is very small. Frenchmen refer to le frigidaire which infers no brand name but generally means a refrigerator.

Objective: To inform a student about the refrigerator and its purpose in a French home.

| France | USA |
|---|---|
| A Frenchwoman goes to the market everyday. She buys enough food for the days meals for her family which may include meat, vegetable, fruit, and bread. All produce and meats are fresh. They are brought to the market daily daily, direct from the producer. Thus a refrigerator serves only to keep food from spoiling until it is served later in the day. For many women the daily trek to the market is a social thing as well as a necessity. Here she may see her friends and renew acquaintances. | In the USA a woman generally does the majority of her shopping once a week although in some cases it is common to go every other week or less frequently than that. Every home has a refrigerator with a freezer. She freezes food when possible and thaws it on the day she wishes to use it. The freezing space in a refrigerator is an important point to consider when buying a refrigerator. Many families have a separate freezer the same size as their refrigerator where they store extra meat or produce from the garden. |

Most homes in France have some sort of an icebox. The refrigerator is also called le frigo. It houses only enough food for one day so a small one is all that is necessary. Food is not frozen.

Presentation and Activities

-Look at various pictures and advertisements for refrigerators, comparing sizes and costs.
-Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of shopping daily.
-Ask students why shopping daily might be important to the French considering the importance they attach to fine cuisine. This could be used to stress the importance of dining when beginning a unit on food.

## CULTURE GRAINS

### La Chambre à Coucher

French bedrooms are similar to those in the United States. There is a type of bolster pillow which is very common in France. This is called a traversin. It is at the head of the bed and sometimes at the foot as well. Usually a large square pillow is placed on top of the traversin. Another noticeable difference between French and American bedrooms concerns closets. With the exception of the most modern apartment buildings and homes, there are no closets in French bedrooms. Clothing is hung in an armoire. This is a tall closed wooden cabinet with a clothes pole inside to accomodate the hanging clothes.

### La Serrure

A Frenchman values his privacy and possessions. It is not infrequent to find closets, cabinets, and rooms, such as the salon, locked. It is interesting to note that televisions in France may also be locked. This is because a wide variety of films are shown. Some are for children and others are for adults only. If a show is intended for adults only, a white square will appear in the upper right-hand corner of the screen. This is a warning to parents that the particular show they are about to see is not suitable for children. If parents are going out for the evening and do not wish their children to watch a specific show, they need only to lock the television.

## Le Salon

The term salon referred to the 17th and 18th literary salons. Today in France the salon is becoming less frequent and is being replaced by the salle de séjour is a combination dining room and family room. The salon refers to a formal living room which would be found in the wealthier homes. The term le living is an Americanization for family room, but the Frenchman usually refers to the salle de séjour.

## La Cuisine

In France emphasis is placed on the food one eats, the manner in which it is prepared, and the environment where the dining takes place. The kitchen is a workroom. It has a small refrigerator, a stove, and oven, usually a window and probably a table. The table, however, is only used as a work table. A Frenchman eats in a dining room, not in the kitchen. Although there are some cupboards in the kitchen, there is usually a pantry where the majority of cupboards are located. The aspect of a kitchen as a workroom differs remarkably from the decorator designed American kitchens which may have all the latest appliances but still be impractical. The French kitchen is much more utilitarian in most cases.

## Availability of Housing

Most French people would love to own their own home and dream of retiring in one. There is a critical shortage of housing facilities, however. The majority of French live in small crowded apartments with inadequate storage facilities, few modern conveniences, and little hope for a change in housing. There are many complaints from the French concerning shoddy construction of new housing facilities. The rooms are not carefully designed and the facilities do not last. One of the factors influencing the housing problem is construction companies. They are small, completion of only several ones. Therefore construction is slow. Because of this shortage in housing many young couples are forced to delay their marriage until housing is available.

## POSSIBLE ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

-Make a scrapbook of French period furniture and label.

-Draw a French house and label all parts of the house in French.

-Give a skit on a tour of a French house or apartment.

-Make a model of a house or room. Label in French all rooms and/or furniture.

-Make a scrapbook of different types of French housing.

-Write a skit in which tenants are discovering trouble in apartment with the concierge.

-Report on different kinds of housing in France.

-Draw a detailed drawing of a castle & in Provence--research the types of flowers and shrubs used.

-Write culture capsules for another group of students.

-Have students write France or U.S.A. on their view a series of slides of French and American homes, apartment buildings, windows, doors, and so forth.

-Answer questions about a French house on sheets or transp.

-Take a written test about characteristics of French housing.

-Give a "composition orale" describing a French house.

-Give a "composition orale" comparing French and American housing.

-Give a "composition orale" describing the "ideal" French house. Or the student's ideal house.

[illegible]

[illegible]

-Make a scrapbook of different types of environments and in France and label the activities.

-Read "Une journée de la ménagère" from French as it actually happened on [illegible]. Discuss the questions. Write in the grammar box of points that students.

-Using Plan Rouge for the images, draw Robin, Marie/Hélène and Jacques' car, [illegible], draw appropriate comparative phrases (ex. A-B-C, D-C-E, E-C-F, F-C-G, G-C-H). Discuss the French drawings as compared to the US individual ones. Students could then write a few words to match the pictures (maybe have each).

-Report on French students.

-Research on La Défense and other influential French architects.

-Use "La Valeur" from Rue Tivoli for review. (Maybe experiences activities).

-Use a typed test to reinforce some vocabulary. 1. The student draws a house according to typed French instructions.

-Use floor plans from magazines and books as examples of some French rooms. (Use supplementary materials.)

-Make a scrapbook of furniture, labeled and grouped as to room.

-In groups measure the room in an appropriate house or apartment and compare the figures with the measurements of a architects drawing of France.

-Use a hollowed board floor plan with different to student groups today and week.

-Draw a floor plan of a French house.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

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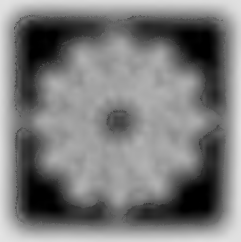

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